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the founding of this branch of mercantile operations, this opening of new avenues of employment for those of delicate, artistic natures, and especially for those of their own sex, the women of Cincinnati can well be proud. Who can and will limit the possibilities of woman's work for the future?

LAWRENCE MENDENHALL.



REPEAL THE DUTY ON ART WORKS

While the prospect of getting any general legislation relating to the tariff at an early day is steadily growing fainter, there is at least one phase of the question which is capable of easy solution and should be taken up without further delay. The absurd clause of the tariff act imposing a duty on works of art should be repealed at once, and before it has done any more harm as a hindrance to educational and cultural influences. The framers of the present tariff saw fit to provide that imported art works designed for public exhibition might enter—under certain restrictions—duty free. Having made this small concession to the nation's educational needs, they proceeded to nullify its effect by imposing a duty of 15 per cent ad valorem on all paintings or sculptures brought in by private owners.

A concerted effort is to be made at the next session of Congress to secure the repeal of this duty. Even the most devout among the high-tariff worshippers can present no reasonable ground for refusing this concession. The tariff "protects" nobody, as American artists are the chief sufferers from its effects, and are unanimous in demanding the repeal of the duty. Their livelihood depends upon the education of the public taste. As privately owned paintings usually pass in a short time into public galleries, the duty that keeps them out of the country simply hinders the educational process. More than a third of the paintings in the great Corcoran gallery at Washington are owned by private individuals, who had to pay a penalty for bringing them past the American custom-houses.

Positively injurious so far as its "protective" feature is concerned, and producing an insignificant revenue, the tariff on art works has no excuse for existing. It is a discredit to a nation which boasts of its devotion to education and its increasing progress toward general culture. C. D. N.

